

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

DeArmond, Robert, Collector

Alaskan Engineering Commission Photographs, ca. 1914

PCA 559

2 Folders  
58 b&w prints

Processed by: Jim Simard & Sara Bornstein,  
May 2013  
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, November 2013

**ACQUISITION:** The collection was donated by Pat Roppel as part of Robert DeArmond's collection; Acc. # 2013-020.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** This collection has been described at the item level. Negatives were scanned and prints made. Negatives were placed in archival envelopes. Negatives are noted to be two different sizes. The collection includes b&w postcards or original b&w images for #s 3, 33 (2 copies), 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 (2 copies), 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 48. These sixteen original prints were placed in Mylar and then into an archival folder.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

A study of the images suggests that these are the photographs of a 1914 surveyor's trip of the Alaskan Engineering Commission. Thomas Riggs Jr. and two other men surveyed the already existing Alaska Railroad outside Cordova, Alaska, and then the land for a possible expansion.

The images suggest the trip started with a voyage off the coast of Oregon and Washington and continued to Cordova Bay, Alaska, with sea passage provided by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. Photographs show lighthouses and seascapes continuing along the coast. The second part of the trip appears to consist of men surveying land and living in mobile tent camps. Finally the majority of the images depict a train trestle construction project which includes pile drivers, train stations, an engine, more permanent building structures, and images of well-dressed ladies, and camp cooks.

The collection includes b&w postcards or original b&w images for #s 3, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 48.

## INVENTORY

- 1 [Seattle shoreline with visible building signs: Alaska Steamship Co. Pier 1 and 2, Spokane Grain Cos Dock]
- 2 [U. S. L. H. S. Manzanita, Lighthouse Tender Captain and sailor with life ring]
- 3 [Used piling log on deck of ship- horizontal image]
- 4 [Barnacled covered log on deck of U. S. L. H. S. Manzanita - vertical image]
- 5 [Buoys on a dock]
- 6 [Barnacle covered buoy?]
- 7 [Tillamook Rock Lighthouse, Oregon]
- 8 [Sea view with end of a pier in corner of image]
- 9 [Men standing on deck of a ship]
- 10 [Trees in foreground, water in middle, mountains in background]
- 11 [View of river proceeding between mountains]
- 12 [View from water of shoreline with buildings at base of mountains]
- 13 [View from water of buildings on shoreline]

- 14 [Unidentified lighthouse] [2 copies]
- 15 [View from water of ships lining shoreline]
- 16 [View from water of ships in bay off shore of village]
- 17 [View from water of boats in bay]
- 18 [Alaskan Vegetation: Devil's Club, bushes, etc.]
- 19 [Juneau?]
- 20 Dewey Rocks Tower May 20, 1914. [Broken tower ladder, Cordova Bay]
- 21 Dewey Rocks Tower May 20, 1914. [Broken tower ladder, Cordova Bay]
- 22 Dewey Rocks Tower May 20, 1914. [Broken tower ladder, Cordova Bay]
- 23 [Man at top of survey tower with sextant?]
- 24 [Man views top of survey pole with sextant]
- 25 [Survey or radio tower?]
- 26 *Alice Susitna* [Paddle wheeler at shoreline]
- 27 [View from water of buildings on shore with mobile survey tents nearby]
- 28 [Three men stand outside three surveyor's tents on a grassy hill]
- 29 [Three surveyor's tents, flagpole, and survey tripod beside two cabin structures on beach with church building in background]
- 30 [Family stands outside tent. Couple with small child standing in a wagon outside a tent. Tent in woods. Fishing gear leaning against tree. Tent has door.]
- 31 [Family stands outside tent. Couple with small child standing in a wagon outside a tent. Tent in woods. Fishing gear leaning against tree. Tent has door.]
- 32 [Unidentified view of mountains and river?]
- 33 [Pile driver on trestle approaching shoreline]
- 34 [Trestle in construction with pile driver follows shoreline]
- 35 [Men using pile driver to construct train trestle over water]

- 36 [End of log and steam visible in foreground with river and mountains in background?]
- 37 [View of boilers and men behind pile driver]
- 38 [Curved trestle tracks]
- 39 [Surveyor tripod in front of end of trestle structure]
- 40 [Steam venting in front of trestle track]
- 41 [A man with three women stand on boardwalk outside cabin. Man with apron stands outside another cabin. Threes felled in background]
- 42 [Blacksmith? Stands with drill press, anvil, forge?]
- 43 [Lady in long skirt and hat stands on rails that run between rock faces]
- 44 [Men working on slanted trestle, buildings, rails with cargo train cars, fenced-in field]  
[NO NEG]
- 45 [Train engine on rails in the forest]
- 46 [Trestle and pile driver with burst of steam]
- 47 [Buildings and tower]
- 48 [Five women rest in the forest] [NO NEG]
- 49 [Woman? On platform of station beside rails]
- 50 [Four men stand on platform beside building next to rails]
- 51 [Train station with water tub for steam engine, horse]
- 52 [Two men in aprons stand on porch, third man with pipe leans against pole]
- 53 [Family with several children sits outside wood cabin]
- 54 [Five men sit outside wooden building]
- 55 [Man on horseback]
- 56 [Man on horseback]
- 57 [Man on horseback]
- 58 [Unidentified stone house]

## **INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES**

Negatives stored in freezer in Archives vault

### **1 Box:**

Negatives 1-58 [No negative for #44, 48]